

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following listing of the revised claims.

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent having expanded and unexpanded configurations, said stent comprising:
 - first and second ring structures individually comprising an endless undulating pattern and disposed axially adjacent each other;
 - a first plurality of connector segments joining the first and second ring structures, each of the first plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;
 - a third ring structure comprising an endless undulating pattern and disposed axially adjacent the ~~first~~ second ring structure; and
 - a second plurality of connector segments joining the ~~first~~ second and third ring structures, each of the second plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;
 - a fourth ring structure comprising an endless undulating pattern and disposed axially adjacent the third ring structure; and
 - a third plurality of connector segments joining the third and fourth ring structures, each of the third plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;
 - a fifth ring structure comprising an endless undulating pattern and disposed axially adjacent the fourth ring structure; and
 - a fourth plurality of connector segments joining the fourth and fifth ring structures, each of the fourth plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;
 - a sixth ring structure comprising an endless undulating pattern and disposed axially adjacent the fifth ring structure; and

a fifth plurality of connector segments joining the fifth and sixth ring structures, each of the fifth plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;

a seventh ring structure comprising an endless undulating pattern and disposed axially adjacent the sixth ring structure; and

a sixth plurality of connector segments joining the sixth and seventh ring structures, each of the sixth plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;

wherein the undulating portion of each connector segment of the first third and fourth plurality of connector segments is axially displaced from the undulating portion of a circumferentially adjacent connector segment when the stent is in said unexpanded configuration; and

wherein the undulating portion of each connector segment of the second first, second, fifth and sixth plurality of connector segments is axially aligned with the undulating portion of a circumferentially adjacent connector segment when the stent is in said unexpanded configuration.

2. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein said endless undulating pattern comprises a serpentine pattern.

3. (Currently Amended) The stent of ~~claim 4~~ claim 2, wherein said serpentine pattern comprises a plurality of unit structures, each unit structure comprising first and second lateral arms and a central region disposed between said first and second lateral arms, said central region having a peak disposed between first and second valleys, each said unit structure being inverted with respect to circumferentially adjacent unit structures of the same ring structure, wherein the lateral arms of each unit structure are shared with adjacent unit structures.

4. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the undulating portion comprises a first u-shaped bend disposed between second and third u-shaped bends.

5. (Original) The stent of claim 4, wherein the first u-shaped bend extends in a first direction and the second and third u-shaped bends extend in a second direction.

6. (Original) The stent of claim 5, wherein the second direction is substantially opposite the first direction.

7. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 1, further comprising one or more pads extending outward from at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh ring structures.

8. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 7, wherein each of said one or more pads comprises an enlarged region spaced from at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh ring structures by a narrow throat region.

9. (Original) The stent of claim 7, further comprising a pharmaceutical composition disposed on said one or more pads.

10. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 9, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is selected from the group consisting of ~~comprises one or more of~~ heparin, covalent heparin or another thrombin inhibitor, hirudin, hirulog, argatroban, D-phenylalanyl-L-poly-L-arginyl chloromethyl ketone, or another antithrombogenic agent, or mixtures thereof; urokinase, streptokinase, a tissue plasminogen activator, or another thrombolytic agent, or mixtures thereof; a fibrinolytic agent; a vasospasm inhibitor; a calcium channel blocker, a nitrate, nitric oxide, a nitric oxide promoter or another vasodilator; an antimicrobial agent or antibiotic; aspirin, ticlopidine, a glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor or another inhibitor of surface glycoprotein receptors, or another antiplatelet agent; colchicine or another antimitotic, or another microtubule inhibitor, dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), a retinoid or another antisecretory agent; cytochalasin or another actin inhibitor; or a remodeling inhibitor; deoxyribonucleic acid, an antisense nucleotide or another agent for molecular genetic intervention; methotrexate or another antimetabolite or antiproliferative agent; paclitaxel; tamoxifen citrate, Taxol® or derivatives thereof, or other anti-cancer chemotherapeutic agents; dexamethasone, dexamethasone sodium phosphate, dexamethasone acetate or another dexamethasone derivative, or another anti-inflammatory steroid or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent; cyclosporin, sirolimus, or another immunosuppressive agent;

tripodal (aPDGF antagonist), angiopeptin (a growth hormone antagonist), angiogenin or other growth factors, or an anti-growth factor antibody, or another growth factor antagonist; dopamine, bromocriptine mesylate, pergolide mesylate or another dopamine agonist; ^{60}Co , ^{192}Ir , ^{32}P , ^{111}In , ^{90}Y , $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ or another radiotherapeutic agent; iodine-containing compounds, barium-containing compounds, gold, tantalum, platinum, tungsten or another heavy metal functioning as a radiopaque agent; a peptide, a protein, an enzyme, an extracellular matrix component, a cellular component or another biologic agent; captopril, enalapril or another angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor; ascorbic acid, alpha tocopherol, superoxide dismutase, deferoxamine, a 21-amino steroid (lasaroid) or another free radical scavenger, iron chelator or antioxidant; a ^{14}C -, ^3H -, ^{131}I -, ^{32}P - or ^{36}S -radiolabelled form or other radiolabelled form of any of the foregoing; estrogen or another sex hormone; AZT or other antipolymerases; acyclovir, famciclovir, rimantadine hydrochloride, ganciclovir sodium or other antiviral agents; 5-aminolevulinic acid, meta-tetrahydroxyphenylchlorin, hexadecafluoro zinc phthalocyanine, tetramethyl hematoporphyrin, rhodamine 123 or other photodynamic therapy agents; an IgG2 Kappa antibody against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* exotoxin A and reactive with A431 epidermoid carcinoma cells, monoclonal antibody against the noradrenergic enzyme dopamine beta-hydroxylase conjugated to saporin or other antibody target therapy agents; enalapril or other prodrugs; and gene therapy agents.

11-22. (Cancelled).

23. (New) A stent having expanded and unexpanded configurations, said stent comprising:

a series of ring structures forming serpentine patterns comprising a plurality of unit structures, each unit structure comprising first and second lateral arms and a central region disposed between said first and second lateral arms, said central region having a peak disposed between first and second valleys, each of said unit structures being inverted with respect to circumferentially adjacent unit structures, wherein the lateral arms of each unit structure are shared with the adjacent unit structures;

a first portion of the ring structures being joined by a first plurality of connector segments, each of the first plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;

a second portion of the ring structures being joined by a second plurality of connector segments, each of the second plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;

a third portion of the ring structures being joined by a third plurality of connector segments, each of the third plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;

wherein the undulating portion of each of the second plurality of connector segments is axially displaced from the undulating portion of a circumferentially adjacent connector segment when the stent is in said unexpanded configuration; and

wherein the undulating portion of each of the first and third plurality of connector segments is axially aligned with the undulating portion of a circumferentially adjacent connector segment when the stent is in said unexpanded configuration.

24. (New) The stent of claim 23, wherein the second portion of the ring structures has about twice as many of the second plurality of connector segments joining adjacent ring structures as the first and third portion of the ring structures has of the first and third plurality of connector segments joining adjacent ring structures.

25. (New) The stent of claim 24, wherein the undulating portion comprises a first u-shaped bend disposed between second and third u-shaped bends, the first u-shaped bend extending in a substantially opposite direction from the second and third u-shaped bends.

26. (New) The stent of claim 25, wherein the unit structure comprises a W-shaped unit structure.

27. (New) A stent having expanded and unexpanded configurations, said stent comprising:

a series of ring structures forming serpentine patterns comprising a plurality of unit structures, each unit structure comprising first and second lateral arms

and a central region disposed between said first and second lateral arms, said central region having a peak disposed between first and second valleys, each of said unit structures being inverted with respect to circumferentially adjacent unit structures, wherein the lateral arms of each unit structure is shared with the adjacent unit structures;

a first portion of the ring structures being joined by a first plurality of connector segments, each of the first plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;

a second portion of the ring structures being joined by a second plurality of connector segments, each of the second plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion;

a third portion of the ring structures being joined by a third plurality of connector segments, each of the third plurality of connector segments having an undulating portion; and

wherein the second portion of the ring structures has about twice as many of the second plurality of connector segments joining adjacent ring structures as the first and third portion of the ring structures has of the first and third plurality of connector segments joining adjacent ring structures.

28. (New) The stent of claim 27, wherein the undulating portion of each of the second plurality of connector segments is axially displaced from the undulating portion of a circumferentially adjacent connector segment when the stent is in said unexpanded configuration, and wherein the undulating portion of each of the first and third plurality of connector segments is axially aligned with the undulating portion of a circumferentially adjacent connector segment when the stent is in said unexpanded configuration.

29. (New) The stent of claim 28, wherein the undulating portion comprises a first u-shaped bend disposed between second and third u-shaped bends, the first u-shaped bend extending in a substantially opposite direction from the second and third u-shaped bends.

30. (New) The stent of claim 29, wherein the unit structure comprises a W-shaped unit structure.